

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 19 has been amended as follows:

Hearing impaired persons frequently suffer a reduced communication capability in the presence of interfering noise. To improve the signal-to-noise ratio, directional microphone arrangements have been used for some time, the benefit of which is indisputable for hearing impaired persons. Frequently, either a system of the first order (meaning with two microphones) or a system of a higher order ~~are thereby~~ is used. The exclusion of noise signals received from behind, as well as the focusing on frontally incident sounds, enables a better comprehension in everyday situations.